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FOOD FISH

SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Canned Products

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Highlights of the Economy

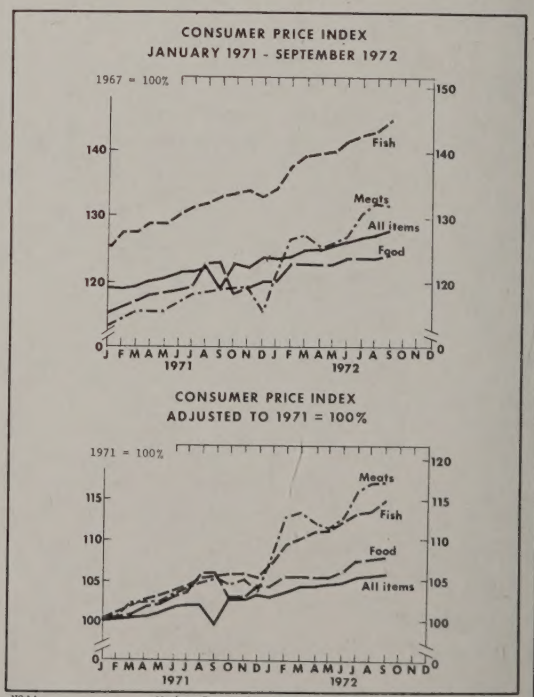
The U.S. economy continued to expand through the third quarter, but the rate of advance has slowed somewhat. From the second quarter to the third, the Gross National Product (GNP) increased at a seasonably adjusted annual rate of 5.9 percent (adjusted for price change). This is below the abnormally high first-to-second quarter change of 9.4 percent. GNP for 1972 is expected to be 6 percent above the prior year.

Consumer demand during the summer was strong; increases were noted across a broad line of retail sales. The GNP deflator, which is an overall measure of inflation, increased at an annual rate of 2.2 percent during the third quarter. This was up slightly from the 1.8-percent change during the second quarter, but still significantly below the 5.0-percent change during the first quarter.

The overall consumer price index (CPI) increased at an annual rate of 3.8 percent during the third quarter. Food prices, however, could increase as much as 4.5 percent from a year ago. Meats took a sharp jump in the third quarter, while the fish component of the CPI remained steady on its previous growth path (fig. 1).

The fish component of the CPI in the third quarter was up at an annual rate of 8 percent over the second quarter of 1972, and 8.2 percent over the third quarter of 1971. However, owing to heavier supplies of canned tuna and sardines, plus an apparent abundance of large shrimp, the rate of increase during the rest of this year and the first half of next year is expected to slow. Under these market conditions, per capita consumption can be expected to increase slightly.

With an expected 7-percent increase in disposable income for 1972, strong consumer demand for established fishery products will continue into the next year--especially in the area of restaurant sales and convenience products which are particularly sensitive to changes in disposable income.


CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
JANUARY 1971 - SEPTEMBER 1972
1967 = 100%
Fish
Meats
All items
Food
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1971
1972
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
ADJUSTED TO 1971 = 100%
1971 = 100%
Meats
Fish
Food
All items
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1971
1972
NOAA Market Research and Services Division NMFS
Figure 1

FOOD FISH SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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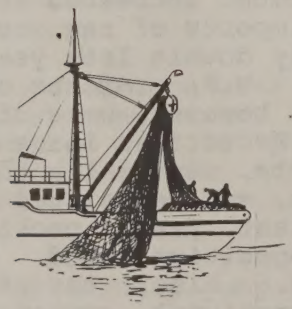
SUMMARY

Supplies of salmon through the first half of 1972 were unchanged from a year earlier. Both imports and exports were running at a high rate for the period. Prices during the first half were relatively stable. However, by mid-August they had moved up sharply, reflecting the low pack in Alaska. Preliminary figures indicate the Alaska pack was 1.7 million standard cases, compared with 2.8 million standard cases a year ago. We estimate that total available supplies for July-December 1972 will be about 2.9 million standard cases. Phase II price controls have limited market price increases to those justifiable on a cost basis, rather than as a result of the short supply situation.

U.S. production of canned tuna through the third quarter was 42 percent above the same period last year. Through September, domestic landings of tuna increased 10 percent and imports of raw tuna were nearly double last year's levels. U.S. imports of canned tuna, however, were off sharply. Reductions in canned tuna imports, especially those from Japan, may be related in part to last year's problems with decomposition and contaminants. Also, the effects of international currency realinement were a significant factor. Resultant higher prices paid for imports from Ja-

pan had a greater impact on sales of finished goods, such as canned tuna, than on sales of imported raw materials because price increases on finished goods are more difficult to absorb.

Through the third quarter of 1972, supplies of canned sardines were higher than a year earlier. Increases in supplies were the result of an unexpected surge in landings and a higher level of imports. Maine production of canned sardines rose sharply in the third quarter because of the heavy landings. Production stepped up so quickly that many packers found themselves running short of cans. These are conditions under which prices normally would soften. However, uncertainty over prospects for the 1973 fish supply could prevent this. In any case, prices are not likely to deviate significantly from present levels, and we anticipate increased consumption of canned sardines through the end of the year.



SALMON

Review

Supplies

Total supplies of canned salmon were 2.8 million standard cases during the first half of 1972--about 2 percent above the same period in 1971 (table 1). Because of a low pack in the third quarter, the total amount available for consumption will be much lower than the high quantity available during 1971 and in the first half of 1972.

The Inventory Situation

Total stocks of canned salmon at the start of 1972 were 2.8 million standard cases--up 6 percent from a year earlier, and substantially higher than the average for the most recent 5 years. Withdrawals during January-June were on a par with last year, and stocks on July 1 were down to 949,000 standard cases. Red salmon was predominant in the canners' inventory mix during the first half of 1972 (fig. 2).

Inventories of canned salmon in the first half of this year, which were high relative to recent year averages, have been influenced by three major factors--price ceilings, the West Coast dock strike, and anticipation of a low 1972 pack.

First, price ceilings based on 1970 pack prices were imposed on canned salmon late in the 1971 pack season. Can-

ners were not allowed to pass on the increased costs of the 1971 pack and therefore were apparently reluctant to ship salmon at the control prices. Inventories built up during this period. In addition, under Phase II of the New Economic Policy, large firms (over $100 million gross sales) were required to notify the Price Commission prior to price increases. Approval of individual price increases on the 1971 pack for these firms was not given until January 1972.

The West Coast dock strike delayed shipments from Alaska canners and caused their inventories to build to high levels. Also canners anticipated a below-average 1972 pack. Thus, there was little pressure in the first half of 1972 to work inventories down at a faster rate.

Imports Were Higher

Imports of canned salmon in the first half of 1972 were 27,100 standard cases--22 percent above the first half of 1971, but below the most recent 5-year average. The West Coast dock strike in late 1971 delayed shipments, and shipments that would have arrived in late 1971 were received in 1972.

Alaska Salmon Pack Below Last Year

Preliminary data show that the 1972 Alaska salmon pack was 1.7 million standard cases --substantially below last year's pack of 2.8 million standard cases. This sharp

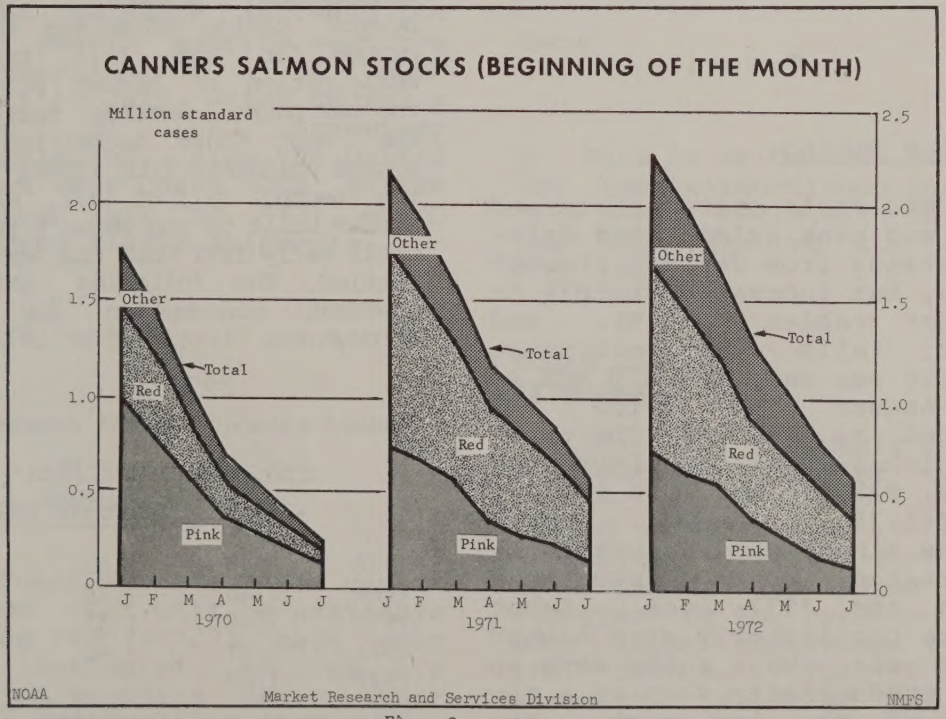


Figure 2

decline was not foreseen in pre-season forecasts, which predicted only a normally low year (2.4 million standard cases).

As a result of an exceptionally poor run of reds in Bristol Bay, the pack in Western Alaska was less than half of last year's total. Only 202,000 cases of reds were packed in this area--a record low for this century--compared with 682,000 standard cases a year ago. Similarly, production dropped by more than 60 percent in Central Alaska.

Production improved only in Southeastern Alaska, where the total pack (mainly chums and pinks) was the highest since 1968. On a species basis, table 2 shows the way the 1972 pack looks, compared with a year ago.

Demand

Prices Rising

Wholesale prices of canned red and pink salmon were fairly steady from January through July, but increased sharply in August (tables 3 and 4). Red 1-lb. talls were selling at $47.50 per case in July and by mid-August the price had jumped to $56.00. The price of pink 1-lb. talls increased from $37.75 per case in July to $41.25 in August. These price increases reflected the increased costs associated with the 1972 pack. Labor costs particularly were higher this year. Wage rates were up and productivity down as a result of the low pack. The latter relates the system of seasonal wage guarantees, which is necessary to attract labor to Alaska.

As a result of higher 1972 costs, shipments from canners early in the season had been slow. Canners delayed shipments until data could be accumulated in order to justify price increases based on higher costs. The timing of the price increases, in mid-August, at the end of the pack season, came at a time when the canners finally had an approximation of their pack.

Consumption Increases

Apparent consumption of canned salmon for the first half of 1972 was 1.6 million standard cases, about 8 percent above the first half of 1971. This substantial gain in consumption probably reflects buyers' taking advantage of lower prices for the 1971 pack in anticipation of higher prices for the new pack. Another factor was the West Coast dockstrike which slowed shipments from Alaska during the second half of 1971. Canners' stocks built up and weren't released until early 1972 when the strike was settled. The following data show apparent consumption for 1968 through the first half of 1972:

Canned salmon apparent consumption*

	Jan.-June	July-Dec.	Year
	- Million standard cases - -		
1968	1.14	1.63	2.77
1969	1.40	1.46	2.86
1970	1.48	1.55	3.03
1971	1.51	1.42	2.93
1972	1.63		

*Represents net disappearance from canners' and distributors' stocks.

Exports Up

Exports of canned salmon through the first 3 quarters of 1972 were substantially above corresponding periods for the past several years. About 820,000 standard cases were shipped between January and September. This amount was almost doubled the quantity exported a year earlier, and was the highest since just before the United Kingdom's (UK) devaluation of the pound in 1968. The United Kingdom is traditionally the largest market for United States canned salmon exports--accounting for 82 percent of total exports to date in 1972. The sharp increase in 1972 is related to the recent international currency realinement, which made exports of dollar valued goods more attractive vis-a-vis the pound sterling. Other factors behind the large increase in this year's exports were the anticipation of a UK dock strike in July, which caused a surge of UK inventory accumulation. Also the United States West Coast dock strike in the fall of 1971, which hampered Alaska shipments.

Outlook

Total Supplies Down

Total supplies of canned salmon that will be available during the 1972/73 pack year are estimated to be 2.9 million standard cases--about 1.5 million standard cases below last year. It is probable that one-third or more of this year's supplies will consist of smaller size cans (i.e., one-half pound and one-quarter pound cans). Data on pack composition by can size are not available at this time, however, recent years show a relationship between the size of the pack and its composition. That is, in low pack years, the percent of smaller size cans increases. Table 5 indicates this.

The estimate of total supplies is comprised of the following elements:

	Million Std. Cases
July 1 canner's stocks	0.96
Alaska salmon pack	1.70
Washington-Oregon pack 1/	0.25
Total	2.91

1/ This is below 1971 because the Washington-Oregon pack is on a 4-year cycle with the low year subsequent to the cycle high year.

World Supplies Predicted Short

Initial indications are that world supplies of canned salmon during the 1972/73 period will be down. Preliminary reports show that both Canada and Japan are experiencing low pack seasons, with Japan reporting record low levels. This could stimulate exports of U.S. salmon. Also, continuation of

current levels of domestic price ceilings, in the face of increased costs per case, through 1972 and 1973 would make export markets more attractive to U.S. producers.

Exports to the United Kingdom

The entry of the United Kingdom into the European Common Market (EEC) creates several market considerations. Although the United Kingdom is scheduled to enter on January 1, 1973, it will not immediately adopt the higher EEC tariff rate of 13 percent ad valorem for canned salmon. The present tariff rate applicable to United States canned salmon entering UK is 2.5 percent; beginning in January 1974 this rate will be gradually increased over a period of about 3 years. The UK entry into the EEC will also necessitate a removal of trade preferences with Canada in late 1973. Duty-free treatment of Canadian canned salmon exports to UK will be abolished. Hence, United States and Canadian canned salmon exporters will be on an equal footing.

Another factor that will influence future exports of canned salmon to UK is the expected official devaluation of the pound to $2.40 from the present official rate of $2.60 set last December. Devaluation of the pound will tend to restrict UK imports as they become relatively more expensive for consumers in UK. Although the official devaluation is set for January 1, 1973, the pound has already been fluctuating at or below $2.40. In 1967, the last time the pound was devalued, United States exports of canned salmon to UK fell drastically (fig. 3). However, the world

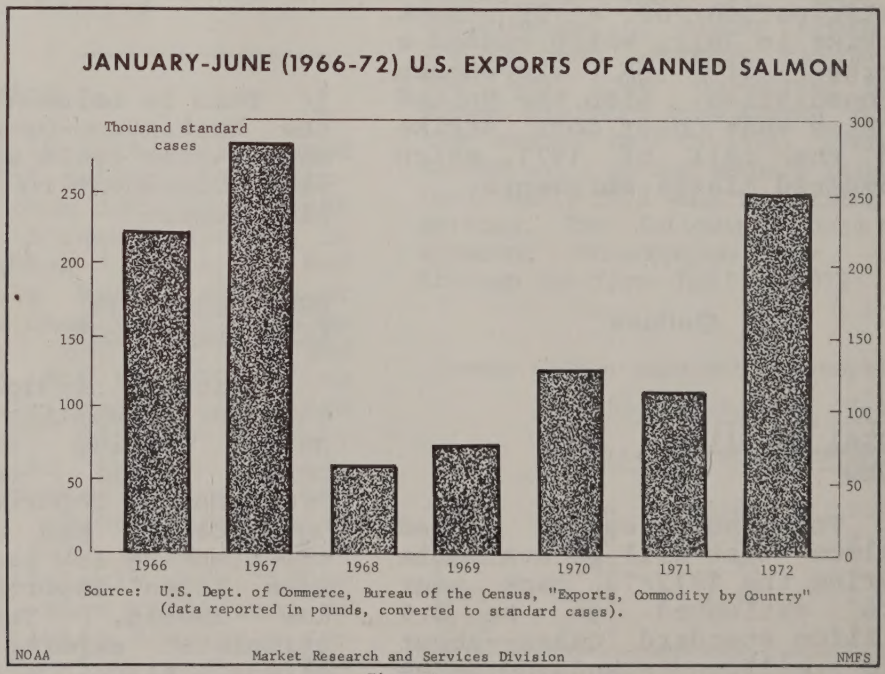


Figure 3

shortage of canned salmon will assist in keeping demand for the U.S. product high.

Market Prices
Will be Strong

After increases early in the year, prices were relatively stable through the middle of July. Because of price controls, prices for stocks carried over from the 1971 pack will probably not record any substantial gains. Allowable price increases are based on cost increases determined on a company by company basis. Most companies had probably approached their price control ceilings after increases early in the year.

As mentioned earlier, prices for the 1972 pack increased substantially in August. Because of this, prices for the 1972 pack are expected to remain stable as the allowed ceiling has probably been met by the August increase.

Low Consumption
Expected This Year

Consumption for the second half of 1972 and the first half of 1973 is expected to be below last year for several reasons. Because of the low 1972 pack, supplies are so low that even a large workdown of inventories would not significantly bolster consumption. Also, high prices will probably discourage some consumption. In addition, the world salmon shortage discussed earlier may create pressure to expand U.S. exports.

SARDINES

Review

Supplies

Supplies of canned sardines available through the third quarter of 1972 were an estimated 96.1 million pounds --23 percent above the same period a year ago (table 6). Until late June, Maine landings of herring were poor, similar to a year ago. The catch then improved considerably. Unexpectedly good catches of juvenile herring (sardine size) were landed through the summer, and these contributed to heavy domestic production during the third quarter. Increased imports also pushed available supplies of canned sardines upward through the first 9 months of the year.

Landings High
in June

Maine landings of herring reached unexpected high levels in June, and ran ahead of earlier predictions throughout the summer. Unofficial reports indicate that landings of herring in the State of Maine were 20 million pounds during the first 7 months of 1972, compared to only 9.2 million pounds during the same period last year.

The poor condition of the Northwest Atlantic herring stock has received much attention lately. ICNAF proposed a quota system early this year in an effort to preserve the resource. The pro-

posed quota has yet to be ratified by members of ICNAF. Since early June, however, most of the catch of herring has been taken within the 3-mile territorial limit and therefore would not be subject to the quota if adopted. Industry spokesmen continue to express concern about the future supply condition of the offshore stock.

Maine Pack--Sharp Increase Begins Late in Second Quarter

The Maine pack of sardines through the third quarter of 1972 was an estimated 27.4 million pounds--55 percent above the same period a year ago. Production was low through May, but heavy landings of herring in the coastal areas beginning in June caused a substantial gain in the pack.

Much of the catch since June has been of juvenile herring, which are preferred by packers over larger adult herring. Smaller juvenile herring are packed in 1/4-pound cans. For the past few years production of 1/4-pound cans has slacked off because of the shortage of juveniles. Adult herring are put up in 15-ounce oval cans, but the bulk of them are usually filleted for export or converted into fish meal.

Through September of this year, sardine canneries in Maine had packed a little over one million cases of 1/4-pound cans, more than double last year's production of 1/4's during the same period.

Imports Increase Though Sources Change

Imports of canned sardines were 60.7 million pounds (including some canned adult herring) during the January-September period--21 percent above last year. Imports have been accounting for about three-fourths of U.S. sardine consumption. Most of the imports are in the higher priced range and thus do not compete directly with the domestic pack.

Although imports of canned sardines have increased this year, there have been some notable changes in the sources stemming from conditions in the traditional supplying nations. A review of the major suppliers follows:

Norway

Norway has been the largest single supplier of canned sardines to the United States, contributing about 40 percent of our imports during the first 9 months of 1972 (table 7). Our imports of sardines, both in oil and not in oil, from Norway have been steadily increasing in recent years, and this trend can be expected to continue. The 1972 catch in Norway has been good. Through July 22, the pack was 1.8 million cases (almost 58 million pounds) mostly of kippers, sild, and brisling.

South Africa

The second largest supplier by rank of canned sardines during the first 9 months of 1972 was South Africa. South Africa exported 9.5

million pounds of pilchard sardines to the United States during the period, compared to only 3.4 million pounds through September of last year. Most of this increase came in the third quarter, and larger quantities can be expected through the end of the year. The South African Press Association (August 4) reported a record canning season, which was brought about in part by good catches of pilchard. The fishing season ended in early August.

The recent troubles with the pilchard catch seem to be over. Nevertheless, it is doubtful whether South Africa will be able to reclaim the share of the United States market that it had before 1970.

Denmark

Denmark ranked third as a supplier of canned sardines to the United States through September 1972. About 5.9 million pounds of sardines were shipped to the United States during the period, of which 85 percent were packed in oil.

Portugal

Portugal was fourth ranked as a supplier of canned sardines to the United States--providing about 8 percent of total imports. Portugal reported a 20-percent increase in production during the May 1971 to May 1972 period, and exports to the United States were higher during the first half of the year. However, since May, the catch has been low. Thus, imports from Portugal through the end of the year may decline.

Canada

Imports of sardines from Canada dropped from 2.7 million pounds through the third quarter of 1971 to 1.7 million pounds during the same period in 1972. This sharp decline was caused by a decrease in the juvenile catch. Canadian canners have been subject to fish supply problems this year. The Canadian catch for January-September 1972 declined sharply.

Canada usually exports about 70 percent of its herring catch. Even if the catch improves for the rest of the year, which is unlikely, exports during the fourth quarter of 1972 are still expected to be well below those of last year.

Demand

All Prices Increase

Prices for Maine sardines at all market levels during the first 9 months of 1972 were substantially higher than during the comparable months a year earlier (table 8). Exvessel prices paid in Maine for herring reported in April and May were about 30 percent above the 1971 year's average. Although data subsequent to May are not yet available, it is expected that exvessel prices may have declined somewhat as a result of good catches of herring since June. Through September 1972, both wholesale and retail prices were 8 percent above last year.

Consumption Increases

Domestic consumption of canned sardines was an estimated 81.7 million pounds during the January-September period--19 percent above last year (table 6).

Outlook

Total supplies of canned sardines during the fourth quarter of 1972 are estimated at about 39 million pounds--57 percent above fourth quarter 1971. This amount would bring supplies for the year to an estimated 123 million pounds--31 percent above 1971. Heavy landings of herring during the summer, plus heavier imports, should contribute to this increase.

Historically, Maine and Canadian landings of herring decline sharply in the fourth quarter because of uncertain weather. Thus, landings are expected to decline through the end of the year.

Prices of sardines in the United States during the rest of 1972 will likely be higher than a year ago, but increases will be dampened somewhat by relatively abundant supplies.

Consumption of canned sardines during the fourth quarter of 1972 may reach 28 million pounds, compared with only 16.8 million pounds during the same period last year. This should occur, provided that competitive prices for the domestic product are maintained.

TUNA

Review

Supplies

Total supplies of canned tuna through the third quarter of 1972 were an estimated 473 million pounds, edible weight --32 percent above the same period last year 1/. This increase in supplies was made possible by a 42-percent increase in the U.S. pack over the previous year. Imports of canned tuna declined sharply. U.S. landings, as well as imports of raw tuna for January-September, were up from a year ago. In addition to these increases, the supply picture for canned and raw tuna showed notable changes in species mix and product form.

Total Landings Higher Major Shifts in Composition

This year U.S. landings of the major species of tuna (albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack) were 415 million pounds through September--10 percent higher than last year (table 9). The yellowfin catch was 295 million pounds--70 percent above last year. Landings of skipjack, however, dropped to only 53 million pounds--67 percent below the January-September 1971 catch. U.S. land-

1/ Supply data include canned imports and the U.S. pack, but do not include inventory figures because these data are not reported.

ings of albacore rose to 66 million pounds through September--33 percent over the same period in 1971. Thus, tuna landings consisted of 71 percent yellowfin, 13 percent skipjack, and 16 percent albacore, compared with a mix of 44, 43, and 13 percent, respectively, last year.

The yellowfin catch from regulated waters in the Eastern Tropical Pacific through October 16, was 140,747 short tons, (including allowances for incidental catch) just exceeding the IATTC 140,000-ton quota. This year's regulated season opened on January 1 and closed on March 5, nearly a month earlier than last year.

Allowed incidental catch rates of yellowfin by purse seine vessels during this year's closed season have been below expected levels and allotments provided by regulations have not been reached. For this reason, the U.S. yellowfin tuna regulations were revised in October, increasing per vessel allowances for incidental yellowfin catch.

Raw Tuna
Import Market

Imports of raw tuna (albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack) through September were 449 million pounds--nearly double last year's level for the same period (table 10). Notably, imports accounted for a little more than half of the new supplies available for domestic canners during the first 9 months of the year, compared to about 40 percent last year.

Imports of all species of raw tuna increased this year with yellowfin leading the way at 116.8 million pounds through September--more than double last year's level. Imports of skipjack were also more than twice last year's level through September, and imports of albacore were up 75 percent.

The Japanese continue to dominate the United States import market for raw tuna. Through the third quarter of 1972, Japan was responsible for 48 percent of all raw tuna shipments to the United States. On a species basis, the Japanese lost ground in the albacore market, however, with their share of total imports slipping from 59 percent last year to 54 percent this year, although quantities increased significantly. The Japanese gained a larger share of total yellowfin shipments, with 29 percent, as opposed to only 20 percent last year. Japanese shipments of skipjack to the United States recorded sizeable gains this year, and their share of the United States market grew slightly from 53 percent last year, through September, to 57 percent this year.

The Japanese reported an exceptionally good summer catch of albacore, which they expected would reach a record high. However, the size of the albacore being caught this year is unusually small--the average fish weighs between 15-1/2 and 17-1/2 pounds. Small-size fish are not preferred for canning purposes because of their low yield.

Although Japanese supplies of albacore are abundant, ex-vessel prices have been spir-

aling upward. Small fish of the size being caught by Japan this year are bringing $692 to $707 per ton frozen at major Japanese ports. Japan had sold 87 million pounds of raw albacore to United States buyers through September--about 32 million pounds more than last year at this time.

Japanese shipments of raw yellowfin to the United States were 34 million pounds during the first 9 months of the year, more than three times the level of last year. Most raw yellowfin from Japan is coming in "gilled and gutted" form rather than "round." Although higher priced, the gilled and gutted product is apparently preferred by U.S. packers because it is partially processed, and therefore reduces direct labor cost to the packer.

For the past 2 years, skipjack tuna has been attracting the increased interest of the Japanese fishing industry. Japan has become involved in a number of joint ventures in the South Pacific desgined specifically to harvest skipjack. Much of this interest has been attributed to the uncertain outlook for other species of tuna and to the high prices being paid for skipjack as a result of a growing demand for this species by packers. The success of the Japanese skipjack fishery is seen in a doubling of Japanese exports of skipjack to the United States through September of this year (96.6 million pounds in 1972 versus 43.9 million pounds in 1971).

Several new exporters of raw skipjack to the United States have emerged this year --they include France, Spain, Congo (Brazzaville), and Taiwan. Together these nations shipped 24 million pounds of skipjack to the United States through September. Their shipments represented 14 percent of the total U.S. skipjack imports for the period. New supplies coming from these nations kept Japan's share of the United States' skipjack market from increasing markedly.

A new development in June and July was the receipt of 333,215 pounds of raw albacore and 134,400 pounds of raw yellowfin from the Peoples Republic of China, which sold for an average price of $740 per ton and $640 per ton respectively. Tables 11, 12 and 13 show January-September imports of raw tuna by selected country.

Canned Tuna
Import Market

Imports of canned tuna (not in oil) during the January-September period were 33.9 million pounds, about 34 percent below last year (table 14). This reduction in imports was entirely the result of fewer receipts from Japan. Japan exported only 28.8 million pounds of canned tuna through September, compared to 46.5 million pounds for the same period last year. Nearly all of U.S. canned tuna imports are packed in brine, very little is packed in oil.

The Japanese report that their production of canned tuna in brine is down sharply this fiscal year. The Japanese fiscal year covers the

period April through March. Japanese statistics indicate that total production is averaging only two-thirds of last fiscal year's levels. As of late June, FY 72 canned white meat tuna (albacore) production designated for export to the United States was only 460,000 cases, almost 70 percent below the same period in FY 71. As mentioned earlier, the Japanese are landing large quantities of small-sized albacore this season. Many Japanese exporters are purchasing this year's albacore catch at high prices and are exporting it in raw form. It appears that Japanese canners have been unable or unwilling to pay premium prices for low-yield albacore, which would have been necessary to bid available supplies away from the raw tuna exporters. Under these conditions, Japanese canners have shipped substantially less than their export production quotas.

Japanese production of canned light meat tuna is also down significantly this year. Again, based on the Japanese fiscal calendar, production of light meat tuna was 49,000 cases by the end of June--a decrease of 84 percent from last year.

Japanese packers have announced their intention to increase production of institutional sized canned tuna (66 1/2-ounce cans) packed in brine and destined for export to the United States. Japanese institutional packs will now comprise 55 percent of total production of white and light meat canned tuna compared to only 25 to 35 percent for white and 10 to 25 percent for light prior to this decision. At the same time the Japanese announced new price increases on institutional brine packs for export to the United States. These events suggest an increase in U.S. demand for the institutional sizes. The following data show the new prices per case (exwarehouse Japan) for 66 1/2-ounce-6's:

	New Price 1/	Old Price 1/	Increase 1/
Solid white	$22.33	$21.00	$1.33
Solid light	17.07	16.23	.84
Chunk	16.33	15.50	.83

1/ Dollar value represents conversion from yen at rate of 300 yen = 1 U.S. Dollar.

Source: Foreign Fishery Information Release No. 72-73, July 11, 1972.

Currency revaluation earlier this year created some confusion in trade with Japan. Most Japanese tuna sales firms, however, have announced new and higher prices that include adjustments for changes in the world currency situation. These adjustments have not deterred sales of raw tuna as U.S. packers continue to increase their purchases. Japanese sales of canned tuna to the United States have declined sharply, but this does not appear to be related as much to the world currency situation. Rather, Japanese dealers suspended large sales of canned tuna to the United States during the first 4 months of the year, while steps were being taken to overcome decomposition problems. In May, Japanese shipments of canned tuna to the United States resumed, although at a much slower pace than last year. The Japanese are now engaged in negotiations with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to work

out a mutually acceptable means for guaranteeing compliance with FDA regulations. The Japanese are attempting to institute their own inspection procedures which will comply with United States standards and thus reduce the risk of loss to Japanese exporters. Once this procedure is established, Japanese sales of canned tuna to the United States should begin to return to normal levels.

Production of Canned Tuna Increases Appreciably

U.S. production of canned tuna through the third quarter of the year was 23.2 million standard cases--42 percent greater than last year (table 15). Increased production in all regions was made possible by higher domestic landings and the large increase in imports of raw tuna during the period.

Using the California tuna pack as a barometer for all regions, there appears to be a shift towards the production of more white meat tuna this year. The California pack of white meat tuna through September of this year was more than double last year and represented 18 percent of total California production versus 13 percent through September of last year.

The U.S. production of institutional pack-sized tuna is also up this year, indicating that processors may be trying to capture a bigger share of the market for this product. A near absence of supplies of institutional product occurred in the summer of 1971 when imports fell off.

Demand

Prices Increase Modestly

Dockside prices for U.S. tuna this year have been running moderately above last year's prices (table 16). A recent Price Commission ruling exempted fish landed in brine from controls. This ruling was important because much U.S. tuna is landed frozen in brine solution. Before the ruling, auctions by the American Tuna Sales Association had been suspended and selling prices were based on the last auction levels established on March 3, 1972. Latest quotations show prices 5 to 8 percent above a year ago as can be seen in the following data:

Tuna exvessel prices - California

	Sept. 1971	Sept. 1972	Change dollars	Change percent
Albacore	630	680	+ 50	+ 7.9
Bluefin	400	422	+ 22	+ 5.5
Skipjack 1/	375	405	+ 30	+ 8.0
Yellowfin 1/	420	442	+ 22	+ 5.0

1/ Premium grade.

In contrast to moderate price increases for domestically caught tuna, imported raw tuna prices have climbed sharply. Through November, United States canners located in American Samoa have been paying foreign suppliers (Japan, South Korea and Taiwan) an average of $693 per ton for frozen albacore (round)--24 percent more than last year.

These same suppliers have been selling gilled and gutted yellowfin to United States packers in American Samoa for an average of $532 per ton through November--27 percent above last year (table 17). However, price increases of this magnitude have not deterred U.S. packers from using larger quantities of imports to augment domestic supplies. As noted earlier, U.S. imports of raw tuna through September 1972 were nearly double last year's level.

Wholesale prices for canned tuna during January-June were slightly higher than during the same period last year (table 18). Since June, increases have been more pronounced. Much of these increases can be attributed to higher costs for raw materials.

At the retail level, prices for 6 1/2-ounce light chunk canned tuna increased an average of about 3 percent through September 1972 over the same period last year. This is the smallest rate of price increase recorded for the same period since 1968. Ample supplies and the effects of the Presidents' New Economic Policy are apparent factors in the slowdown of the rate of increases in retail tuna prices.

Outlook

Landings of tuna may slack off a bit during the fourth quarter of 1972, with the IATTC yellowfin quota reached and with skipjack unavailable in large quantities this season. This anticipated leveling off of domestic landings should stimulate even greater U.S. imports of raw tuna. It is likely that raw tuna imports during the second half of the year will exceed the record 274 million pounds during the first 6 months of 1972. Demand on the part of U.S. packers will probably force prices upward for imported raw tuna. With prices for domestic raw tuna now exempt from price controls, we may see some narrowing of the margin between U.S. and import prices.

Demand for canned tuna appears strong as evidenced by the high level of production and the search for new sources of supplies of raw tuna this year. If production increases during the fourth quarter paralleling levels earlier this year, we estimate the U.S. pack for the year at a record 29.5 to 30.0 million standard cases (550-565 million pounds) --or as much as 30 percent above 1971.

Current Groundfish Situation

Landings of major groundfish species (cod, flounder, haddock, pollock, ocean perch) during the first 9 months of 1972 were an estimated 63 million pounds (fillet weight)--down 5 percent from the same period a year earlier (table 19). The third quarter was 5 percent above the third quarter 1971 indicating a small recovery in landings. Imports for January-September 1972 were 219.5 million pounds--up 19 percent from the same period last year. However, total available supplies were down 2 percent because beginning stocks in 1972 were well below the level of 1971.

Holdings on October 1 were 44.7 million pounds or 18 percent below last year. This reflects an increase in apparent consumption of about 10 percent over last year, even in the face of rising prices. Increasing disposable income, as noted in the "Highlights of the Economy", has enabled consumption for established fishery products to remain high, despite rising prices for most groundfish species. Both wholesale and exvessel prices were up as much as 20 to 37 percent.

With some species, such as haddock, the shortage of world supplies has been a major factor contributing to higher prices. With other species such as flounder, supplies are up. However, demand is strong and most supplies appear to be already committed. This has caused the price of uncommitted supplies to push even higher than might otherwise be expected.

Statistical Appendix

Table 1.--Supplies and utilization of canned salmon, 1966-72

Year/ Species	Supplies					Utilization				
	Beginning stocks		Production	Imports	Total	Ending stocks		Exports	Apparent consumption	
	Canners	Distributors				Canners	Distributors		Total	Per capita
	Thousand standard cases								(155.9 mil. lbs.)	(Pounds)
1966	2,259.9	501.1	4,357.5	12.3	7,130.8	2,991.4	464.9	426.7	3,247.8	0.797
1967	2,991.4	464.9	2,072.3	2.5	5,531.1	1,666.4	421.0	428.0	3,015.7 (144.8 mil. lbs.)	.748
1968--1st half										
King	63.1					35.6				
Red	876.0					443.9				
Coho	84.2					30.4				
Pink	435.9					104.1				
Chum	207.2					56.9				
Total	1,666.4	421.0		96.3	2,183.7	671.0	316.0	58.2	1,138.5 (54.65 mil. lbs.)	.274
1968--2d half										
King	35.6		70.2			56.7				
Red	443.9		714.6			638.3				
Coho	30.4		163.9			104.0				
Pink	104.1		1,841.6			1,035.1				
Chum	56.9		654.5			478.0				
Steelhead			2.8							
Total	671.0	316.0	3,447.7	7.0	4,441.6	2,312.1	434.0	61.1	1,634.4 (78.45 mil. lbs.)	.390
1969--1st half										
King	56.7					20.0				
Red	638.3					141.8				
Coho	104.0					42.7				
Pink	1,035.1					429.0				
Chum	478.0					242.2				
Total	2,312.1	434.0		31.5	2,777.6	875.7	433.0	72.9	1,396.0 (67.00 mil. lbs.)	.331
1969--2d half										
King	20.0		69.4			41.3				
Red	141.8		881.3			458.6				
Coho	42.7		123.6			46.3				
Pink	429.0		1,261.5			984.2				
Chum	242.2		212.1			226.7				
Steelhead			3.0							
Total	875.7	433.0	2,550.9	14.7	3,878.4	1,757.1	406.0	250.8	1,464.5 (70.30 mil. lbs.)	.348

Table 1.--Supplies and utilization of canned salmon, 1966-72 (continued)

Year/ Species	Supplies				Utilization			
	Beginning stocks		Production	Imports	Total	Ending stocks		Exports	Apparent consumption
	Canners	Distributors				Canners	Distributors		Total
	Thousand standard cases								
1970--1st half									
King	41.3					13.6			
Red	458.6					46.3			
Coho	46.3					13.9			
Pink	984.2					125.4			
Chum	226.7					43.9			
Total	1,757.1	406.0		15.4	2,178.5	243.1	324.3	127.4	1,483.7 (70.83 mil. lbs.)
1970--2d half									
King	13.6		50.9			30.4			
Red	46.3		1,831.2			1,018.4			
Coho	13.9		198.8			91.5			
Pink	125.4		1,275.5			740.6			
Chum	43.9		465.5			317.0			
Steelhead			.3						
Total	243.1	324.1	3,822.2	35.5	4,424.9	2,197.9	451.8	222.8	1,552.4 (74.52 mil. lbs.)
1971--1st half									
King	30.4					8.9			
Red	1,018.4					309.3			
Coho	91.5					34.1			
Pink	740.6					137.0			
Chum	317.0					93.8			
Total	2,197.9	451.8		11.6	2,661.3	583.1	375.9	122.1	1,508.2 (75.86 mil. lbs.)
1971--2d half									
King	8.9		76.2			42.1			
Red	309.3		1,379.3			962.0			
Coho	34.1		164.3			134.3			
Pink	137.0		1,194.3			702.8			
Chum	93.8		576.8			409.5			
Steelhead			2.5						
Total	583.1	375.9	3,393.4	20.7	4,373.1	2,250.7	448.1	257.7	1,416.6 (68.00 mil. lbs.)
1972--1st half 1/									
King	42.1					21.8			
Red	962.0					235.6			
Coho	734.3					53.2			
Pink	702.8					147.9			
Chum	409.5					127.9			
Total	2,250.7	448.1		127.1	2,825.9	586.4 1/	362.2	251.9	1,625.4 (78.02 mil. lbs.)

1/ Preliminary.

Table 2.--Alaskan canned salmon pack by species (Total 1966-71 and preliminary* 1972)

Year	King	Red	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
	Standard cases					
1966	34,832	1,237,300	116,917	2,015,971	585,405	3,990,425
1967	45,112	682,365	66,509	329,124	340,896	1,464,006
1968	43,722	626,836	120,016	1,818,201	629,938	3,238,713
1969	32,903	766,407	27,513	1,185,595	210,260	2,222,678
Total 1970	27,265	1,705,682	53,474	1,328,576	449,959	3,564,956
Total 1971	31,535	1,096,438	16,174	1,017,653	557,357	2,779,157
1972	20,894	528,447	47,487	598,489	479,932	1,675,249
Percent change from 1971	33.9	-51.8	-37.7	-41.2	-13.9	-39.7
Percent change from 1970	-23.6	-69.0	-11.2	-55.0	6.7	-53.0

*Preliminary reports on the pack buildup issued weekly June to September. Preliminary totals available thru September 17, 1972.

Table 3.--United States wholesale prices of canned salmon, monthly, 1968-72 1/

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	Dollars per case 2/												
Red (sockeye)													
1968:	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.70	41.00	41.00	40.50	40.50	40.31
1969:	40.50	40.50	40.63	41.00	41.00	41.25	43.30	43.75	44.13	45.13	45.25	45.25	42.64
1970:	45.25	45.44	45.50	45.50	45.50	45.50	42.90	40.00	40.00	40.00	41.13	41.50	43.19
1971:	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	43.00	44.50	3/	3/	46.00	46.00	42.85
1972:	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.50	47.50	47.50	47.50 4/	56.00	56.50	56.50			
Pink:													
1968:	32.50	32.50	32.80	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	32.30	31.00	31.00	30.00	29.75	31.99
1969:	29.70	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.80	32.40	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	31.28
1970:	31.60	31.25	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	33.50	33.50	33.50	33.50	32.65
1971:	33.50	34.50	34.50	34.50	34.50	34.50	34.80	35.83	3/	3/	36.00	36.00	34.86
1972:	36.00	37.00	37.00	37.38	37.50	37.50	37.75	41.25	44.50	44.50			
Chum:													
1968:	29.00	29.00	29.30	29.50	29.50	29.50	29.50	29.30	28.50	28.13	27.38	27.00	28.80
1969:	27.00	26.75	26.50	26.50	26.50	26.88	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.88	29.00	27.67
1970:	28.80	28.25	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	29.00	29.50	29.50	28.71
1971:	29.50	30.00	30.00	30.13	30.50	30.50	30.50	31.50	3/	3/	31.50	31.50	30.56
1972:	32.00	31.00	31.00	31.50	31.50	31.50	31.50	34.75	38.00	38.50			
King (chinook)													
1968:	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00
1969:	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	35.00	36.50	36.75	36.50	34.73
1970:	36.50	37.13	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.25	37.50	37.50	37.63	37.50	37.17
1971:	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	3/	3/	38.50	38.50	37.70
1972:	38.50	38.50	38.50	38.50	38.50	38.50	38.50	38.50	*	*			

1/ Average of the weekly prices reported by Seattle brokers and canners.
2/ Forty-eight 1-pound talls. Does not include discounts and promotional allowances.
3/ Prices not reported during the price freeze.
4/ July 1972 prices include only first 2 weeks. Supplies not sufficient to warrant price quotations later in the month.
* Quotations withdrawal.

Table 4.--Average wholesale prices of red salmon, by selected can size, monthly, 1968-72 1/

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
							Dollars per case 2/						
48/talls													
1968	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.70	41.00	41.00	40.50	40.50	40.31
1969	40.50	40.50	40.63	41.00	41.00	41.25	43.30	43.75	44.13	45.13	45.25	45.25	42.64
1970	45.25	44.44	45.50	45.50	45.50	45.50	42.90	40.00	40.00	40.00	41.13	41.50	43.19
1971	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	43.00	44.50	-	-	46.00	46.00	42.85
1972	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.50	47.50	47.50	47.50	56.00	56.50	56.50			
							3/						
48/1/2's													
1968	25.25	24.38	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	20.50	20.50	21.37	20.50	22.79
1969	20.50	20.50	21.13	20.50	20.50	21.13	24.95	25.69	25.81	27.00	27.25	27.25	23.52
1970	27.25	27.06	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	26.85	26.63	26.75	26.75	27.50	27.75	27.05
1971	27.75	27.75	28.00	28.25	28.25	28.25	27.35	27.25	-	-	29.00	29.00	28.09
1972	31.00	30.00	29.10	30.50	30.13	30.00	30.00	34.00	34.50	38.50			
							3/						
48/1/4's													
1968	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.38	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.00	13.50	14.24
1969	13.50	13.50	13.75	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.90	14.50	14.63	15.00	15.38	15.12	14.15
1970	15.10	15.19	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.23
1971	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
1972	17.00	17.00	16.70	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	19.25	19.25	19.31			
							3/						

1/ Computed from weekly prices reported in Seattle Fishery Market News.
2/ Does not include price allowances.
3/ July 1972 prices include only first 2 weeks. Supplies not sufficient to warrant price quotations later in the month.

Table 5.--Amount and can-size composition of U.S. salmon pack (1966-71)

Year	Pack total	1/4-lb.	1/2-lb.	1-lb.	4-lb.
	mil. std.cases	std. case	Percent of total		
1966	4.345	3.2	20.3	72.9	3.4
1967	2.022	7.1	36.2	53.0	3.7
1968	3.433	3.4	14.3	78.4	3.8
1969	2.547	4.4	20.9	70.2	4.4
1970	3.906	4.1	21.2	69.4	2.7
1971	3.217	7.4	28.8	59.2	4.5

Table 6.--Supplies and utilization of canned sardines

Year	Beginning stocks 1/	Production	Imports 2/	Total	Ending stocks	Exports	Apparent Consumption
	Million pounds						
1971							
1st quarter	10.2	4.7	16.3	31.2	10.0	0.4	20.8
2d quarter	10.0	3.9	16.4	30.3	6.9	.2	23.2
3d quarter	6.9	9.1	17.6	33.6	9.0	.2	24.4
4th quarter	9.0	4.5	11.4	24.9	8.0	.1	16.8
Year	10.2	22.2	61.7	94.1	8.0	.9	85.2
1972							
1st quarter	8.0	5.0	20.7	33.7	6.5	.7	26.5
2d quarter	6.5	4.4	17.1	28.0	4.9	.2	22.9
3d quarter	4.9	18.0	22.9	45.8	12.0e	1.5	32.3

1/ Canners and distributors stocks of Maine sardines.
2/ Includes some canned sea herring.

Table 7.-- Sardine imports by country of origin, January-September, 1967-72[1/]

Country	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
	1,000 pounds						Percent					
	Not in oil						Not in oil					
South Africa	17,657	20,469	10,643	4,621	3,425	9,465	86.1	82.8	71.2	45.5	22.1	38.7
Norway	2,290	3,410	3,444	4,243	4,854	6,633	11.2	13.8	23.0	41.8	31.3	27.2
Canada	236	482	339	469	356	613	1.2	1.9	2.4	4.6	2.3	2.5
Denmark	74	125	144	156	333	868	.4	.6	1.0	1.5	2.1	3.6
Portugal	50	52	-	17	34	75	.1	.2	-	.2	.2	.3
Venezuela	-	-	-	-	59	1,108	-	-	-	-	.4	4.5
Peru	-	-	-	-	961	1,440	-	-	-	-	6.2	5.9
Poland	-	-	-	207	1,547	1,326	-	-	-	2.0	10.0	5.4
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	450	366	-	-	-	-	2.9	1.5
Other	198	172	367	442	3,495[2/]	2,535	1.0	.7	2.4	4.4	22.5	10.4
Total	20,505	24,710	14,937	10,155	15,514	24,429	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	In oil						In oil					
Norway	9,340	11,002	10,936	13,832	13,124	16,473	51.1	53.2	58.0	56.6	51.8	50.2
Portugal	3,666	4,291	3,398	3,398	3,463	4,624	20.1	20.7	18.0	13.9	13.7	14.1
Canada	2,590	2,393	1,523	3,435	2,347	1,101	14.2	11.6	8.1	14.0	9.3	3.4
Denmark	507	880	1,236	1,100	2,934	5,058	2.8	4.2	6.6	4.5	11.6	15.4
Venezuela	594	146	59	240	400	1,649	3.3	.7	.3	1.0	1.6	5.0
United Kingdom	490	606	222	607	1,385	984	2.7	2.9	1.2	2.5	5.4	3.0
Poland	-	-	-	-	176	313	-	-	-	-	.7	1.0
Spain	155	240	517	1,022	1,110	1,755	.8	1.2	2.7	4.2	4.4	5.4
Morocco	708	907	812	498	149	356	3.8	4.5	4.3	2.0	.6	1.0
Other	218	212	148	309	231	503	1.2	1.0	.8	1.3	.9	1.5
Total	18,268	20,677	18,851	24,441	25,319	32,816	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Does not include sea herring.
2/ Includes 3,083 thousand pounds from Japan.

Table 8.--Exvessel, wholesale and retail prices of Maine sardines, monthly, 1966-72 1/

Prices/Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year Average
						Cents per pound 2/							
Exvessel price (Maine)													
1966	2.2	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.3	2.1	2.3	1.6	2.1	1.9
1967	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.4
1968	2.5	1.9	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4
1969	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.1	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.1
1970	--	2.0	--	--	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.9	1.8
1971	--	--	--	1.1	--	2.4	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.9	--	2.3
1972	--	--	--	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.1				
Wholesale price						Dollars per case 3/							
1966	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	10.50
1967	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	12.00	12.25	12.25	12.25	11.56
1968	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25
1969	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.63	12.63	12.31
1970	12.63	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	14.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	14.07
1971	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.75	15.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	15.96
1972	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	17.55	17.30	17.10			
Retail price						Cents per can 4/							
1966	13.9	14.0	14.0	14.1	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.6	14.7	14.2
1967	15.3	15.0	15.1	15.3	15.0	14.9	14.9	14.9	15.0	15.1	15.4	15.5	15.1
1968	15.8	16.0	15.8	15.8	16.0	16.1	16.1	16.1	16.2	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.1
1969	16.3	16.5	16.4	16.5	16.4	16.5	16.5	16.4	16.5	16.6	16.6	16.6	16.5
1970	16.5	16.6	16.6	16.9	17.1	17.3	17.2	17.4	17.8	18.2	18.7	19.0	17.4
1971	19.3	19.6	19.7	19.8	20.0	20.4	20.5	20.8	21.0	21.1	21.2	21.4	20.4
1972	21.6	21.6	21.4	21.6	21.7	21.8	21.9	22.1	22.6	22.7			

1/ Keyless, oils.
2/ Round weight.
3/ 100 - ½-lb. cans per case. New York prices taken on Monday or Tuesday of the week in which the 13th of the month falls.
4/ U. S. average prices ½-lb. can as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 9.--United States tuna landings by region and by species, January-mid-October, 1971-1972 1/

Region/Species	1971	1972	Percent change
	- - - - Thousand pounds - - -		
California			
Albacore	29,642	30,532	+ 3
Yellowfin	133,076	215,586	-69
Skipjack	89,612	27,780	+62
Washington and Oregon			
Albacore	20,539	35,944	+75
Yellowfin	-	-	-
Skipjack	-	-	-
Puerto Rico, Hawaii and American Samoa			
Albacore	-	16	-
Yellowfin	33,838	79,182	+134
Skipjack	70,739	25,466	- 64
Total All Regions			
Albacore	50,781	66,492	+ 33
Yellowfin	166,914	294,768	+ 77
Skipjack	160,351	53,246	- 67
Grand Total all species	377,446	414,506	+ 10

1/ Albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack only--does not include bluefin or bonito.

Table 10.--United States imports of raw tuna (not including bluefin or bonito), monthly, 1968-72

Year/Species	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Million pounds												
1968													
Albacore	8.4	8.7	17.6	9.4	8.3	9.8	6.6	9.2	22.4	14.0	9.4	8.9	132.7
Yellowfin	6.7	3.6	9.1	9.0	16.4	11.3	17.7	13.7	11.8	16.0	8.5	8.9	132.7
Skijack	1.8	2.0	3.2	4.6	5.7	4.7	2.4	4.9	2.0	3.5	4.0	7.9	46.7
Total	16.9	14.3	29.9	23.0	30.4	25.8	26.7	27.8	36.2	33.5	21.9	25.7	312.1
1969													
Albacore	14.5	4.7	10.5	11.7	4.4	11.8	21.9	18.5	9.3	9.3	29.4	11.6	158.5
Yellowfin	5.8	2.7	7.5	11.1	8.5	7.6	5.6	10.0	11.4	11.4	8.8	9.4	99.8
Skipjack	4.6	3.2	3.7	2.6	9.4	15.9	1.7	0.9	3.8	3.8	1.5	2.3	51.8
Total	24.9	10.6	21.7	25.4	22.3	37.5	21.1	29.4	24.5	39.7	39.7	23.3	310.1
Albacore	9.1	13.5	7.6	22.9	5.0	11.9	14.8	9.8	17.1	23.7	10.5	10.1	156.0
Yellowfin	9.2	10.8	10.3	12.8	5.4	9.2	14.2	9.3	11.0	6.7	8.2	6.5	113.6
Skipjack	0.4	1.5	1.0	5.1	4.0	0.1	9.5	10.3	14.1	5.4	4.8	8.2	64.4
Total	18.7	25.8	18.9	40.8	14.4	21.2	38.5	29.4	42.2	35.8	23.5	24.8	334.0
1971													
Albacore	7.9	9.9	9.6	9.2	5.5	9.8	9.6	24.1	7.6	21.7	11.0	15.5	141.4
Yellowfin	3.5	3.8	8.3	8.0	9.0	6.3	3.7	4.4	9.4	11.9	11.8	23.9	104.0
Skipjack	7.7	9.3	15.5	20.4	11.5	7.1	4.7	2.6	4.2	8.5	18.5	21.5	131.5
Total	19.1	23.0	33.4	37.6	26.0	23.2	18.0	31.1	21.2	42.1	41.3	60.9	376.9
1972													
Albacore	14.0	7.5	16.5	21.8	13.5	8.1	25.1	28.9	26.8				
Yellowfin	13.9	6.3	17.0	14.9	14.7	16.1	10.5	11.2	12.2				
Skipjack	27.2	9.9	22.5	23.2	15.9	11.1	13.8	28.8	17.4				
Total	55.1	23.7	56.0	59.9	44.1	35.3	49.4	68.9	66.4				

Table 11.--United States imports of raw albacore tuna, by country of origin--January-September, 1971-72

Country	Jan.-Sept. 1971	Percent of total	Jan.-Sept. 1972	Percent of total
	Thousand pounds			
Northern Antilles	3,501	3.8	4,517	2.8
Peru	-	-	1,296	0.8
Argentina	7,209	7.7	4,555	2.8
Republic of Korea	672	0.7	8,378	5.2
Japan	54,927	58.9	87,121	53.6
British Pacific Islands	4,943	5.3	7,914	4.9
Other Pacific Islands	1,900	2.0	10,156	6.2
Canary Islands	530	0.6	3,286	2.0
Sierra Leone	7,165	7.7	4,333	2.7
Ivory Coast	1,587	1.7	7,458	4.6
Republic of South Africa	996	1.1	7,812	4.8
Panama	3,189	3.4	175	0.1
Other	6,649	7.1	15,431	9.5
Total	93,268	100.0	162,432	100.0

Table 12.--United States imports of raw yellowfin tuna, by country of origin--January-September 1971-72

Country	Jan.-Sept. 1971	Percent of total	Jan.-Sept. 1972	Percent of total
	Thousand pounds			
Canada	3,030	5.4	3,893	3.3
Mexico	1,125	2.0	4,267	3.6
Costa Rica	4,864	8.6	2,280	2.0
Panama	6,577	11.7	2,907	2.5
Ecuador	7,773	13.8	7,514	6.4
Peru	8,967	15.9	5,146	4.4
Malaysia	1,701	3.0	5,781	5.0
Philippine Republic	1,541	2.7	2,157	1.9
Taiwan	1,479	2.6	6,468	5.5
Japan	11,087	19.6	33,673	28.9
British Pacific Islands	1,566	2.8	10,881	9.3
Ivory Coast	1,179	2.1	3,493	3.0
Kenya	1,574	2.8	3,300	2.8
Trinidad	79	0.1	251	0.2
France	-	-	2,181	1.9
Other Pacific Islands	500	0.9	7,470	6.4
Mauretania	-	-	2,412	2.1
Other	3,431	6.0	12,631	10.8
Total	56,473	100.0	116,705	100.0

Table 13.--United States imports of raw skipjack tuna, by country of origin--January-September, 1971-72

Country	Jan.-Sept. 1971	Percent of total	Jan.-Sept. 1972	Percent of total
	Thousand pounds			
Canada	2,940	3.5	1,950	1.1
Panama	4,797	5.8	453	0.3
Ecuador	11,393	13.7	4,938	2.9
Peru	12,111	14.6	2,979	1.8
Japan	43,922	52.9	92,623	54.6
Sierra Leone	1,074	1.3	-	-
Ivory Coast	3,283	4.0	14,546	8.6
Ghana	740	0.9	5,358	3.2
Mexico	777	0.9	3,210	1.9
France	--	--	18,779	11.0
Spain	--	--	7,206	4.2
Taiwan	276	0.3	1,557	0.9
Senegal	--	--	3,860	2.3
Angola	1,620	2.0	4,280	2.5
Congo Brazzaville	--	--	1,847	1.1
Other	109	0.1	6,176	3.6
Total	83,042	100.0	169,762	100.0

Table 14.--Imports of canned tuna (not in oil), monthly, 1967-72 1/

Year/Species	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	Thousand pounds												
1967													
Albacore	4,120	2,967	2,193	2,021	1,692	2,454	3,441	4,131	5,156	4,014	3,836	2,640	38,674
Other	2,636	1,405	1,676	1,468	882	2,290	2,428	2,695	3,030	2,744	3,442	1,765	26,461
Total	6,756	4,381	3,869	3,489	2,574	2,454	5,869	6,826	8,186	6,758	7,278	4,405	65,135
1968													
Albacore	3,657	2,858	3,205	4,170	3,208	3,598	3,212	2,444	4,179	3,883	3,965	3,483	41,862
Other	2,103	1,752	1,390	2,006	2,049	1,592	2,301	2,510	2,620	2,269	2,782	1,787	25,161
Total	5,760	4,610	4,595	6,176	5,257	5,190	5,513	4,954	6,799	6,152	6,747	5,270	67,023
1969													
Albacore	986	3,145	3,657	6,058	4,772	3,508	6,531	7,351	4,181	4,706	3,231	2,945	51,072
Other	1,090	1,645	1,673	3,298	2,862	2,099	1,970	1,024	856	1,555	2,103	1,713	21,888
Total	2,076	4,790	5,330	9,356	7,634	5,607	8,501	8,376	5,037	6,261	5,334	4,658	72,960
1970													
Albacore	5,418	2,191	2,514	2,053	2,199	4,034	3,897	6,112	4,593	4,284	4,044	1,0722	42,411
Other	2,669	1,517	1,136	1,610	1,325	2,395	3,529	3,591	2,944	3,293	4,069	1,617	26,695
Total	8,087	3,708	3,650	3,663	3,524	6,429	7,426	9,703	7,537	7,577	8,113	2,689	72,106
1971													
Albacore	3,031	1,096	790	513	1,300	4,187	4,903	4,061	8,520	1,286	377	2,031	32,095
Other	5,171	3,280	1,895	1,691	2,639	2,882	2,514	1,404	1,713	1,346	602	1,558	26,696
Total	8,202	4,376	2,685	2,204	3,939	7,069	7,417	5,465	10,234	2,632	979	3,589	58,791
1972													
Albacore	722	338	135	1,446	3,696	2,899	2,412	5,161	5,572				
Other	621	592	478	1,119	2,293	1,707	1,159	1,740	1,804				
Total	1,343	930	613	2,565	5,989	4,606	3,571	6,910	7,376				

1/ Canned tuna imports in oil are negligible and are not included.

Table 15.--United States tuna pack, by region, 1967-72[1/] (does not include bonito)

Year	California[2/]	Washington and Oregon	Puerto Rico	Other[3/]	Total
	Thousand standard cases				
1967	8,962	1,509	5,852	3,359	19,682
1968	9,043	1,778	6,401	2,790	20,012
1969	8,990	1,657	6,334	3,116	20,097
1970	10,564	1,589	6,366	3,541	22,060
1971					
January	298	36	227	212	773
February	856	63	961	167	2,047
March	1,013	70	676	13	1,772
April	1,216	122	410	481	2,229
May	792	124	1,005	112	2,033
June	1,028	81	557	320	1,986
July	903	142	592	291	1,928
August	595	244	748	261	1,848
September	664	198	621	296	1,779
1972					
January	495	4/	757	316	1,568
February	860	134	1,022	248	2,264
March	1,393	59	982	353	2,787
April	1,451	131	770	395	2,747
May	1,485	49	1,043	294	2,871
June	1,254	154	581	279	2,268
July	1,253	321	848	311	2,733
August	1,485	567	710	418	3,180
September	1,077	237	1,117	376	2,807

1/ 1971 and 1972 data are preliminary.
2/ Source: California Department of Fish and Game.
3/ Includes Maryland, Hawaii, and American Samoa.
4/ January figures included in February.

Table 16.--Exvessel prices for tuna in California, monthly, 1964-72 1/

Species/Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	Dollars per ton												
Albacore													
1964	-	-	-	-	-	-	325	312	312	312	312	312	314
1965	-	-	-	-	-	-	325	325	325	325	325	325	325
1966	-	-	-	-	-	-	375	375	375	390	390	390	382
1967	-	-	-	-	-	-	390	395	400	400	400	400	398
1968	-	-	-	-	-	-	425	425	425	425	425	425	425
1969	-	-	-	-	-	-	450	450	450	450	450	450	450
1970	-	-	-	-	-	-	550	550	550	550	550	550	550
1971	-	-	-	-	-	-	630	630	630	630	630	630	630
1972	-	-	-	-	-	-	680	680	680	680	680		
Bluefin													
1964	-	-	-	-	250	250	245	240	240	240	240	240	243
1965	-	-	-	-	-	267	267	260	255	255	271	208	255
1966	-	-	-	-	-	295	262	290	290	306	-	-	289
1967	-	280	270	-	-	235	235	235	237	237	237	237	245
1968	237	-	-	-	-	-	295	295	291	295	295	-	286
1969	301	-	-	305	305	306	276	306	306	306	306	-	302
1970	326	-	-	-	347	349	351	358	360	362	373	-	353
1971	-	-	392	-	400	401	403	403	400	400	400	401	400
1972	-	422	-	-	-	422	422	422	422	422	422		
Skipjack 2/													
1964	209	211	210	208	209	203	203	203	200	200	200	200	205
1965	200	200	200	205	223	227	226	215	205	205	230	276	218
1966	339	374	364	335	298	280	263	266	276	280	294	293	305
1967	293	265	240	217	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	221
1968	205	257	257	258	260	263	264	265	266	266	266	266	258
1969	268	270	271	273	274	276	276	276	276	276	279	279	274
1970	291	296	298	301	308	317	323	327	331	333	338	339	317
1971	362	362	362	366	367	371	372	374	375	376	376	376	370
1972	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	405		
Yellowfin 2/													
1964	255	257	260	259	259	258	258	258	258	258	258	258	258
1965	270	270	270	275	283	287	287	280	275	275	291	326	282
1966	395	447	419	388	353	335	320	321	332	343	358	358	364
1967	358	319	295	277	265	265	265	265	267	267	267	267	281
1968	267	307	308	308	310	314	314	315	316	316	316	316	309
1969	318	319	322	323	325	326	326	326	326	329	330	325	325
1970	341	346	348	355	358	366	372	379	381	383	386	391	367
1971	412	412	412	415	417	421	420	420	420	421	421	421	418
1972	442	442	442	442	442	442	442	442	442	442	442		

1/ Midpoints of price ranges.
2/ Premium grade.

Table 17.--Japanese tuna export prices to United States' canners in American Samoa, monthly, 1967-72

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Avg.
	Dollars per ton												
Albacore (round) frozen monthly prices													
1967	390.0	NA	355.0	345.0	340.0	350.0	370.0	370.0	372.5	372.5	372.5	372.5	364.5
1968	372.5	377.5	377.5	377.5	377.5	377.5	377.5	380.0	382.5	385.0	390.0	410.0	382.1
1969	415.0	415.0	415.0	420.0	420.0	425.0	425.0	430.0	430.0	430.0	440.0	445.0	425.8
1970	455.0	465.0	475.0	485.0	510.0	530.0	555.0	623.0	575.0	585.0	605.0	521.0	540.3
1971	560.0	540.0	540.0	540.0	540.0	560.0	560.0	570.0	570.0	595.0	595.0	605.0	564.6
1972	605.0	605.0	625.0	650.0	670.0	670.0	698.0	-	748.0	810.0	845.0		
Yellowfin (gilled and gutted) frozen monthly prices													
1967	350.0	NA	315.0	305.0	295.0	290.0	300.0	300.0	305.0	305.0	307.5	310.0	307.5
1968	310.0	315.0	317.5	317.5	317.5	317.5	317.5	317.5	320.0	322.5	327.5	335.0	319.6
1969	335.0	337.5	337.5	337.5	337.5	342.5	342.5	342.5	347.5	347.5	352.5	357.5	343.5
1970	367.5	377.5	387.5	392.5	392.5	420.0	430.0	485.0	450.0	455.0	465.0	472.5	424.6
1971	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	410.0	430.0	440.0	440.0	450.0	450.0	455.0	422.9
1972	455.0	465.0	475.0	500.0	540.0	540.0	558.0	-	588.0	590.0	605.0		

Source: NMFS San Pedro Market News (various Japanese newspapers).

Table 18.--Canned tuna wholesale and retail prices, monthly, 1967-72.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
						Dollars per case 1/							
Wholesale - Advertised brands 2/													
White solid (No. 1/2 - 7 oz. 48's)													
1967	16.88	16.88	16.88	16.49	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.35	16.35	16.37
1968	16.35	16.34	16.35	16.35	16.60	16.85	16.85	16.85	16.85	16.85	16.85	17.65	16.72
1969	17.85	17.85	17.85	18.05	18.10	18.10	18.41	18.60	18.70	19.10	19.23	19.35	18.43
1970	19.35	19.35	19.55	19.05	19.95	19.95	20.35	20.51	22.35	22.35	22.35	22.35	20.68
1971	22.35	22.35	22.55	22.85	22.85	22.85	21.50	21.50	21.50	21.50	21.50	21.50	22.07
1972	21.50	22.28	22.70	22.74	22.75	22.75	23.31	23.50	23.50				
Light chunk (No. 1/2 - 6-1/2 oz. 48's)													
1967	14.51	14.15	14.15	13.83	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.75	13.56	13.71
1968	13.50	13.50	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.35	14.75	14.24
1969	14.85	14.85	14.85	14.85	14.85	14.85	14.91	15.10	15.25	15.85	15.98	16.35	15.19
1970	16.35	16.35	16.49	16.70	16.70	16.80	17.20	17.20	17.20	17.70	17.70	17.70	17.01
1971	18.20	18.70	18.70	18.65	18.70	18.70	18.70	18.70	18.70	18.70	18.70	18.70	18.61
1972	18.70	18.90	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.39	19.70	19.70				
Wholesale - Private label 2/													
White solid (No. 1/2 - 7 oz. 48's)													
1967	13.75	13.70	13.70	13.50	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.39
1968	13.25	13.25	13.85	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.05
1969	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.50	15.25	15.35	15.75	15.75	16.75	14.90
1970	16.75	16.75	16.49	16.70	16.70	16.80	17.20	17.20	17.20	17.70	17.70	17.70	18.20
1971	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25
1972	20.25	20.75	21.50	21.50	21.50	21.50	21.50	21.50	21.50				
Light chunk (No. 1/2 - 6-1/2 oz. 48's)													
1967	12.00	11.99	11.95	11.65	11.35	11.35	11.35	11.35	11.35	11.35	10.75	10.75	11.43
1968	10.75	10.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.58
1969	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.79	11.88	11.99	12.50	12.50	12.88	12.00
1970	12.88	12.88	12.98	13.00	13.00	13.20	14.00	14.13	14.50	15.00	15.00	15.00	13.79
1971	15.06	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.46
1972	15.50	15.50	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.81	17.00	17.00				
Retail 3/													
Light chunk (6 - 6-1/2 oz. cans)													
1967	35.9	35.5	35.5	35.3	35.2	35.1	34.6	34.3	34.2	34.3	34.4	34.4	34.9
1968	34.3	34.2	33.7	33.8	34.5	34.7	34.6	34.9	34.9	34.9	34.8	35.0	34.5
1969	35.1	35.4	35.1	35.3	35.6	35.5	35.4	35.7	35.8	36.3	36.5	36.9	35.7
1970	37.6	39.8	38.3	38.7	39.2	39.4	39.4	35.7	40.7	41.7	42.2	42.7	39.4
1971	43.3	43.6	43.9	44.3	44.2	44.4	44.2	44.2	44.3	44.1	43.9	44.1	44.0
1972	44.1	44.7	45.2	45.6	45.8	45.9	45.7	45.3	45.6				

1/ Quotes do not include trade or promotional allowances.
2/ Reported by San Diego brokers and cannery representatives, f.o.b. canner's terminal.
3/ U.S. average retail price reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 19.--Supplies and utilization of major groundfish[1/] quarterly 1970-72 (fillet weight)

Year	Supplies				Utilization	
	Beginning stocks	Landings	Imports of fillets	Total	Ending stocks	Apparent consumption
	Million pounds					
1970						
1st quarter	47.1	18.5	58.4	124.0	27.7	96.3
2d quarter	27.7	26.3	59.6	113.6	32.8	80.8
3rd quarter	32.8	22.5	69.8	125.1	43.5	81.6
1971						
1st quarter	51.6	18.8	53.7	124.1	33.5	90.6
2d quarter	33.5	27.2	53.8	114.5	36.1	78.4
3rd quarter	36.1	19.9	77.4	133.4	52.7	80.7
1972						
1st quarter	46.3	18.4	55.4	120.1	19.4	100.7
2d quarter	19.4	23.0	70.1	112.5	17.9	94.6
3rd quarter	17.9	21.2	94.0	133.1	44.7	88.4

1/ Cod, ocean perch, haddock, pollock, cusk, and flounder.
2/ Preliminary estimated landings.

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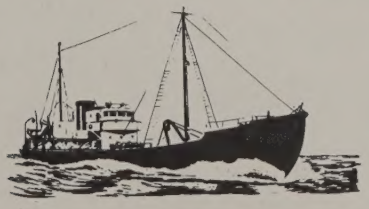

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